

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TUNIS 04053 081816Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----081817Z 118768 /44
O 081731Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7062
INFO USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 4053

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO PLAB TS
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE TO GOT RE ROLE OF TUNISIAN
ILO CONFERENCE DELEGATION - GOT RESPONSE

REF: TUNIS 4047 (NOTAL)

1. EMBASSY OFFICER WAS CALLED IN TO FOREIGN MINISTRY
AFTERNOON JUNE 8 TO MEET WITH CHIEF OF NORTH AMERICAN
DIVISION BEN REDJEB CONCERNING CURRENT INTERNATIONAL
LABOR CONFERENCE IN GENEVA.

2. BEN REDJEB OPENED DISCUSSION SAYING THAT FOREIGN
MINISTRY AND GOT HAD GIVEN PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO EMBASSY'S
AIDE MEMOIRE ON GENEVA MEETING AND TO AMBASSADOR'S DEMARCHE
MADE TO DIRECTOR MFA FOR EUROPE AND AMERICAN MEJDOUB ON
JUNE 7. SPEAKING FROM INSTRUCTIONS BEN REDJEB SAID THAT
TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT WISHED TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO
COOPERATE WITH THE USG IN ILO. TO THIS END FOREIGN MINISTRY
IS SENDING TELEGRAPHIC INSTRUCTIONS TO TUNISIAN DELEGATION
TO ENTER INTO DIALOGUE WITH U.S. DELEGATION AND TO DO UTMOST TO
REDUCE AREAS OF DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN ARAB/AFRICAN/NON-ALIGNED
GROUP AND U.S. REPRESENTATIVES.

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3. BEN REDJEB SAID INSTRUCTIONS WOULD ALSO INCLUDE LISTING
OF SPECIFIC ISSUES ON WHICH GOT UNDERSTANDS THERE ARE
SERIOUS DIFFERENCES AND THAT TUNISIAN DELEGATION WOULD BE
URGED TO COOPERATE WITH U.S. DELEGATION ON THESE INDIVIDUAL
QUESTIONS TO MAXIMUM EXTENT POSSIBLE. HE CONTINUED THAT GOT
RECOGNIZES IMPORTANCE THAT USG GIVES TO OUTCOME OF THESE

MEETINGS AND WILL SEEK TO PLAY MODERATING ROLE WITH MORE
EXTREME ARAB/AFRICAN/NON-ALIGNED DELEGATIONS.

4. STILL SPEAKING FROM INSTRUCTIONS, BEN REDJEB EMPHASIZED
THAT TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION MEMBER CHERIF, AS
CHAIRMAN OF THE RESOLUTIONS COMMITTEE, WAS ALSO OFFICIAL SPOKES-
MAN FOR ARAB/AFRICAN/NON-ALIGNED GROUP IN ILO CONFERENCE.
AS SUCH, GOT DELEGATION, INCLUDING MINISTER ENNACEUR, ALSO
HAD TO REPRESENT VIEWS AND ATTITUDES OF THIS LARGER
GROUP. CERTAIN GROUP DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE, HE
SAID, AND TUNISIANS HAD ACCEPTED CERTAIN COMMITMENTS
WHICH COULD NOT BE BROKEN. BEN REDJEB ADDED THAT, FOR
BETTER OR FOR WORSE, THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION WAS DIRECTLY
INVOLVED, AND THAT THIS WAS HIGHLY SENSITIVE ISSUE, ONE ON
WHICH CALL ARAB STATES HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO STAND TOGETHER.
BEN REDJEB CLOSED DISCUSSION REPEATING THAT GOT DELEGATION
WOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO BE AS HELPFUL AND COOPERATIVE
AS POSSIBLE, BUT THAT GOT ALSO HOPED USG WOULD UNDERSTAND
INHERENT LIMITATIONS PLACED ON TUNISIA'S FREEDOM OF
ACTION TO BE FULLY RESPONSIVE TO AMERICAN VIEWS.

5. I THINK THAT TUNISIAN RESPONSE TO OUR DEMARCHE IS A
POSITIVE ONE, AND REPRESENTS GOT'S INTENTION TO MAKE
HELPFUL CONTRIBUTION TO RESOLUTION OF OUTSTANDING
DIFFERENCES. ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SOME LIMITATIONS AS TO
WHAT TUNISIAN DELEGATION CAN REALISTICALLY BE EXPECTED
TO DO I AM HOPEFUL THAT PROMISED INSTRUCTIONS TO ENNACEUR
AND CHERIF WILL SERVE TO IMPROVE ATMOSPHERE AND TO
OPEN WAY FOR BETTER DIALOGUE WITH U.S. DELEGATION.
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MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, INTERNATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977TUNIS04053
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770204-0671
Format: TEL
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770676/aaaacomx.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 93411782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 TUNIS 4047
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2221247
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEMARCHE TO GOT RE ROLE OF TUNISIAN ILO CONFERENCE DELEGATION - GOT RESPONSE
TAGS: ELAB, TS, ILO
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/93411782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009